

# FUTURE COOPERATIVES 2011

28, 29, 30 January

## CO-OPERATIVES & THE BIG SOCIETY ARE WE IN... OR ARE WE OUT?

### welcome

At this year's Future Co-operatives conference we've chosen to focus on the Big Society agenda as, for good or for bad, it is happening and co-operatives are being mentioned as central to it.

Co-operative Futures believes that the Big Society offers both opportunities and threats to the co-operative movement. Our event will challenge delegates to work with us to debate both the Big Society's pros and its cons and decide what we, as the movement's active co-operators, are actually going to do about it when we get back to our co-ops after the weekend.

Our event will run from Friday January 28 through to breakfast on Sunday morning of January 30 2011.

On Friday evening our guest speaker is Russell Gill, Head of Membership at the Co-operative. Russell will share some of the Co-operative's thoughts about the Big Society. On Saturday delegates will be challenged to identify and then decide their collective response to the opportunities and threats arising from the Big Society agenda.

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The **Midcounties Co-operative**

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### about

As the theme for this year's event is 'Co-operatives & the Big Society: are we in or are we out?', who better as our guest speaker than Russell Gill, head of membership of the Co-operative Group – the 160-year-old biggest society, with six million card carrying members?

Now that Peter Marks has announced the Co-operative's 20:20 campaign to have 20 million members (yes, you read that right) by the year 2020, it will be fascinating to hear how Russell believes the Co-operative can achieve that, with the Big Society agenda as our political backdrop.

Dave Boyle, CEO of Supporters Direct, will kick off on Saturday morning by setting the modern Big Society agenda against the context of the co-operative movement's long, long history of quiet but established delivery, both ethically and sustainably, for people on many of the issues that now seem to come under the Big Society's big umbrella.

The challenge for delegates will then be to workshop the opportunities and the threats for the movement and – since we're a doing movement – decide what we are actually going to do to address both threats and opportunities.

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### where

The venue for the conference is Alexandra House, Swindon

Alexandra House, a purpose-built residential conference facility, is set in 20 acres of landscaped grounds and is located just off the M4, three miles from Swindon. It is easily reached from junctions 15 or 16, is just one hour by car from Bristol International Airport and is only minutes from Swindon main line train station with direct links from London.

For more information visit: [hayley.com/venues-and-hotels/alexandra-house](http://hayley.com/venues-and-hotels/alexandra-house)



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### booking

There are three ticket or purchase options for delegates [prices DO NOT include VAT]:

<b>Full attendance from Friday to Sunday morning (two nights, dinner, lunch, bed &amp; breakfast)</b>	<b>£250.00</b>
<b>Dinner, bed &amp; breakfast Friday night &amp; Saturday day conference</b>	<b>£175.00</b>
<b>Saturday event delegate (includes lunch) only</b>	<b>£100.00</b>

To make a booking delegates should email [info@futures.coop](mailto:info@futures.coop) stating their name, the name of their organisation, which of the above options they would like to book for, if they have any special requirements they would like to be catered for (diet etc) and to whom and where invoices should be emailed. Payment terms are the same as last year i.e. if we haven't received payment before you arrive, you won't be able to come in!

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